

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

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SUBJECT Letter from the Central Committee of the
Communist Party of Austria to Local Groups

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The following circular letter, intended for discussion at party meetings, was sent to all local groups on 15 March 1950 by Friedl Fuernberg, secretary general of the Communist Party of Austria. *

"We Communists consider our party as a special party and the organization of the best, truest, most consistent and idealistic sons of our people. To be a true Communist one must do more than pay party dues. One must be considered a Communist and act accordingly. It is we who are the vanguard of the working masses fighting for socialism. Our members must make every effort to make our party a party of the laborers and farmers. This will be possible only when all members openly profess their Communism, rather than - as is unfortunately too often the case - failing even to know our program and believing to have done their duty by reading Communist newspapers. Strengthening our organizational effectiveness is one of our main goals for the future. The most pompous speeches are of no avail when our local groups and cells have no organizational cadres. Criticism and self-criticism therefore is to all Communists the first principle in our intra-party democracy. Where there is no such attitude there is no sound development toward a true labor party, and such elements hurt the cause of socialism more than they aid it. Thus, it will be the mission of all local group leaders to examine and criticize the efficiency of party functionaries before the members of their groups. The value of the activities may then be assessed by the individual members. This will give a true picture of the individual groups and of all shortcomings in party work.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

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"The most frequent blunder - made all too often - is that the Communist Party is regarded even by party members as a party supported by foreigners. We Communists are a national party and belong to that international working class fighting daily for liberation from the capitalistic social order. No other party stands for national interests as much as the Communist Party. All party members must be aware of this fact, which also must be emphasized to socialist workers. This would lend added strength to our party. The fight for enterprises and against Neo-Fascism is the most important work of our party. The activities in factory cells must be given an intensified political meaning. We must furnish evidence that only the Communists stand up for the people. This depends largely upon the attitude of the individual functionaries of the local groups. The fighting power in the individual enterprises must be increased. It is useless when several party members devote themselves to organizational and propaganda activities while others wait for those activities to bear fruit, then attempt to criticize them.

"We Communists in Austria are now faced with decisive battles, both political and economic. If we succeed in preparing our party for action we will be victorious. This, Comrades, depends on you."

[] Comment: The original circular letter could not be obtained. The poor wording of the text may indicate that it is a true copy.

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